

# City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

## Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Monday, August 16, 2021

In the City Council Chambers at City Hall

259 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Johnston, and Sheehan; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller, DDA Director ConnerWellman; Police Chief Thomas

Guests: Kathy Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Johnston, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Fitzsimmons, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

There was no Public Comment.

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman presented photos of progress on the Toan Park Improvement Project. The project is expected to be completed in September.

The City has applied for funding through the State Revolving Fund for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. The Design Phase will proceed this Fall to define the scope of the project. City Engineers will hold a workshop with Council within the next couple of weeks.

The Board of Light and Power is proud that there were no power outages for its customers related to the storms that recently moved through the State of Michigan and caused widespread power outages. There will be a scheduled power outage later this Fall so reclosers at the substation can be replaced.

City Manager Gorman reported that discussions with TriCounty Homeworks regarding a potential fiber project continue. He stated that he hopes to have a concrete recommendation to Council within the next couple of months.

City staff continue to work with NextEnergy on implementation of AMI metering for electric customers. NextEnergy is currently in discussions with the Michigan Public Power Agency as other MPPA members are now interested in the technology.

The Ambulance Department is operating with two paramedics and it continues to go smoothly. An offer has been extended to a new paramedic; another will be coming on board within the next month.

Under Presentations, DDA Director ConnerWellman provided her report on downtown activities and presented information on the Toan Park Revitalization Project.

Under New Business, the First Reading of Ordinance 175QQ to revise Division 8, O-R Office/Research Form-Based District, Section 42-280 of the Code of Ordinances for the property located at Cutler Rd. and Grand River Ave.

City Manager Gorman explained that when Sparrow Hospital submitted plans a couple of years ago for a medical clinic as the first medical project to be developed on this site it became apparent that the O-R District imposed restrictions that were infeasible and, in some cases, overly restrictive. As a result, Sparrow was forced to seek several zoning variances to allow the project to move forward.

Council Member Fitzsimmons stated the timing of the proposed ordinance is good to clean up the current ordinance.

Council Member Johnston stated that she feels good about the proposed ordinance. There was a lot of great discussion amongst the Planning Commission members before recommending it to City Council for approval.

City Manager Gorman noted the City did receive written comments from local realtor, Terry Frewen, for the Public Hearing held by the Planning Commission. All comments were discussed and considered in the proposed ordinance.

The Council considered Resolution 21-43 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 21-43 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Johnston, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting and the Closed Session held on August 2, 2021, payment of invoices in the amount of \$99,541.08 and payroll in the amount of \$134,410.65 for a total of \$233,951.73. Purchase orders to PLB Planning Group in the amount of \$6,568.74 for consulting fees related to planning and zoning services and to Total Technical Assurance Group in the amount of \$10,000.00 for broadband were also included.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Sheehan, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman recognized the MML Selfie Day on Friday, August 13, 2021 and presented the photo of City staff taken in front of City Hall that was submitted and published.

City Manager Gorman presented a photo of the new basketball floor at Portland High School which incorporated an image of Portland’s historic bridge.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Barnes read aloud Eagle Scout proclamations that will be presented to both Caiden Pelc and Isaiah Pelc.

Council Member Sheehan provided further information on the projects that each of them completed in order to earn their Eagle Scout designations.

Mayor Barnes thanked DDA Director ConnerWellman for all of her efforts on the Toan Park Improvement Project.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck announced that Ionia County Central Dispatch has named a new director. Lance Langdon brings a lot of experience to the department.

Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck also noted that VFW meal nights will begin with a Burger Night on September 10, 2021.

Motion by Johnston, supported by Sheehan, to adjourn the regular meeting.

Yeas: Johnston, Sheehan, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

James E. Barnes, Mayor

---

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk